

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

March 8, 1983



ALL-COUNTY LETTER NO. 83-17

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: LOW INCOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE FUNDED BY UTILITY FIRMS

REFERENCE:

Southern California Gas Company and Southern California Edison began a low income energy assistance program on January 10, 1983. It is possible that other utility firms in California may establish similar programs.

The Southern California Gas Company and Southern California Edison energy assistance program will be provided to eligible individuals in the form of a reduced bill. This reduction will include 100 percent of the past-due portion of the bill.

If energy assistance is provided in the form of such a credit or reduced bill and is not available to meet current needs, it is not considered in determining eligibility or benefits in AFDC (EAS 44-101), RCA and ECA (MPP 69-207.1), or Medi-Cal. Energy assistance provided as a credit or reduced bill is not treated as income for Food Stamps, as MPP 63-502.2(a) stipulates that any gain or benefit which is not in the form of money payable directly to the household is excluded as income. Under current regulations, direct cash payments made by a utility firm would be treated as casual income in the AFDC Program (EAS 44-111.44), the RCA and the ECA programs (MPP 69-207.1), and as unearned income in the Food Stamp Program (MPP 63-502.125), unless excluded under MPP 63-502.2. Payments received under the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) funded by the Federal Government and administered through the State Office of Economic Opportunity continue to be excluded as income for all programs (EAS 44-111.3(o), MPP 63-502.2(j)(7), and MPP 69-207.1).

We encourage you to refer potentially eligible applicants and recipients to an energy assistance program's designated screening agency, if you are requested to do so by a utility firm offering low income energy assistance in your county. If you become aware of any plans by a utility company in your area to provide some other type of low income energy assistance or have questions about this ACL, please contact your AFDC Management Consultant at (916) 445-4458.

Kyle S. McKinsey
KYLE S. MCKINSEY
Deputy Director

GEN 654 (9/79)

cc: CWDA

